

Office of Naval Intelligence

Special Advisory

To ensure maximum dissemination to the maritime industry and/or community, ONI invites your attention to the following US DOT MARAD advisory. Please note, this advisory is not piracy-specific. This advisory regards terrorism and is being disseminated in an effort to promote security for those operating within the maritime domain.

US DOT MARAD Advisory

Information suggests that al-Qaida remains interested in maritime attacks in the Bab-al-Mandeb Strait, Red Sea, and the Gulf of Aden along the coast of Yemen. Although it is unclear how they would proceed, it may be similar in nature to the attacks against the USS COLE in October 2000 and the M/V LIMBURG in October 2002 where a small to mid-size boat laden with explosives was detonated. Other more sophisticated methods of attack could include missiles or projectiles. Although the time and location of such an attack are unknown, ships in the Red Sea, Bab-al-Mandeb Strait, and the Gulf of Aden along the coast of Yemen are at the greatest risk of becoming targets of such an attack.

All vessels transiting the waters in the vicinity of Yemen are urged to operate at a heightened state of readiness, maintain strict 24-hour visual and radar watches, and regularly report their position, course and speed to the UKMTO.

Vessels are at greatest risk in areas of restricted maneuverability, and while in/near port or at anchor. Merchant vessels are requested to report any suspicious activity to the UKMTO Dubai.